

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 01972 081822Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----063332 081838Z /64 S

O 081800Z APR 78 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 929
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 1972

EXDIS
FROM LOW
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: TIME AND PLACE OF MALTA II MEETING

REFLECTING ON THE DIFFERENCES OVER PLACE AND TIMING
FOR THE MALTA II MEETING WHICH HAVE ARISEN, IT APPEARS THAT
MUGABE'S FAILURE TO APPEAR IN TIME TO CONSULT HIS PATRIOTIC
FRONT CO-LEADER AND NKOMO'S RESENTMENT AT HAVING DECISIONS
TAKEN WITHOUT CONSULTING HIM WHICH CONFLICTED WITH WHAT HE
CONSIDERED HIS OWN IMPORTANT PLANS, COMBINED TO CREATE
MISUNDERSTANDING. NKOMO WILL HAVE LEFT MAPUTO BEFORE MUGABE
ARRIVES. IT MAY PROVE DIFFICULT FOR EITHER TO BACK DOWN FROM
THE STRONG POSITION HE HAS TAKEN AND THEY MAY SEEK TO TAKE
REFUGE IN A POSTPONEMENT OF THE MEETING UNTIL APRIL 25-26
(IN ARUSHA OR DAR). THIS, OF COURSE, IS WHAT WE WISH TO AVOID.

ON THE OTHER HAND IT SEEMS TO ME QUITE LIKELY THAT BLAME
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FOR THE DIFFERENCES WILL SOON BE DIRECTED FIRST TOWARDS THE
BRITISH AND THEN TOWARDS US. IT WILL BE CLAIMED THAT WE RUSHED
THEM AND THAT WE CREATED THE MISUNDERSTANDING BY CONSULTING
THE PF LEADERS SEPARATELY. WE WILL BE ACCUSED OF DIVIDE AND
RULE TACTICS.

IN SPITE OF THE DISADVANTAGES THEREFORE I BELIEVE WE SHOULD
AT THIS STAGE BE CAREFUL ABOUT PUSHING TOO HARD FOR 14-15

OR 15-16 DATES. A TANZANIA MEETING ON 25-26 MIGHT BE BETTER
THAN NO MEETING AT ALL AND COULD BE THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID
A LOT OF ILL WILL.
BOWDLER

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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